

YUGOSLAV ASSAILS REDS IN BELGRADE

Poet, Barred From the Air
Berates Network Heads

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By M. S. HANDLER

Three Yugoslav writers, including Matija Beckovic, a prominent poet, have been barred from television and radio in Belgrade because of charges that they formed a group through which the Central Intelligence Agency influenced television and radio programming.

In an interview published in Knizevne Novine, a Belgrade literary fortnightly, Mr. Beckovic, a non-Communist, denounced the Communist heads of the television and radio networks as "imposters, poltroons, idiots and cowards."

Mr. Beckovic, who is regarded as an "enfant terrible" of Serbian literature, said he owed nothing to the state but that he owed everything to his mother and father. The latter was a member of the anti-Communist forces of Gen. Draja Mihailovic, who was tried and executed in 1946 on charges of treason.

"If what is being said about the C.I.A. is really true," Mr. Beckovic said in the interview, "then I propose that this efficient service be engaged again for our TV programs so that we can see something good. For, as a layman, I consider the C.I.A. to be an enemy of this country and of its TV programs. I think that only the nonsense and stupidity presented on our TV and radio could be excused as activities of the C.I.A."

Wrote for Broadcasts

Mr. Beckovic and his two colleagues, Brana Crncevic and Dusan Radovic, have written many successful television and radio programs for children.

The conflict between the three writers and the Communist chiefs of the television and radio networks was traced to the linguistic controversy between Croats and Serbs, which threatened to become a major political problem last March.

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Mr. Beckovic and his colleagues agreed with a group of Croatian intellectuals who were demanding equality for the Croatian language with the Serbian language. The poet also signed a Serbian declaration stating that if Croatian were granted equality, the Serbs, who live in many parts of Yugoslavia outside of Serbia proper, should receive instruction solely in the Serbian language.

Serbs and Croats share the same spoken language, but their different historic developments resulted in the infiltration of Latin, Italian, German and Hungarian words into the Croatian tongue, while the Serbs employed some Turkish words.

The differences were due to the fact that for many centuries Roman Catholic Croatia was under Austrian control and under Italian cultural influence, while Serbia was under Turkish domination for five centuries.

Under the Catholic influence, Croatia adopted the Latin alphabet, and Serbia, under Greek Orthodox influence, adopted the Cyrillic alphabet.

Managers Denounced

In his denunciation of the Communist managers of the networks, Mr. Beckovic said:

"These party people love the nation as a whole, but hate man individually. Every day I have to prove my wits and talent, while they are free of any requirement for producing such evidence."

Mr. Beckovic said one of the things he could not tolerate in Yugoslavia were secret trials.

"I cannot tolerate any secret trials behind closed and padded doors," he said. "I do not admit that such a policy is legal. I do not recognize my biography, which they dreamed up while gazing into the fireplace. I do not recognize blind people as art critics. When surrounded by impostors, poltroons, idiots and cowards, a normal person has the more to admire himself."

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Socialist Party of Japan Meets to Solve a Crisis

TOKYO, Aug. 19 (Reuters)—

The Socialist party of Japan, the major opposition force in the Diet, or parliament, began a two-day convention here today in an attempt to solve its leadership crisis and raise ebbing morale.

Before the talks began, four rival factions in the party reached a compromise on naming members to top posts so that the new leaders could claim support of all members.

The leadership crisis resulted from the resignation Aug. 6 of the party chairman, Kozo Sakai, and the secretary general, Tomomi Narita, after a revolt by party members against a compromise the chairman had worked out with the ruling Liberal Democratic party.